

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 06802 211717Z

43 R
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 127719
R 211755Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6802

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR KUX NEA/INS FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, IN
SUBJECT: ST. JOHNS

REF: STATE 114078

1. I DON'T MUCH LIKE WHAT CONTINUES TO HAPPEN REGARDING ST. JOHNS. WE MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE HILL ON THE PROJECT. EVERY TIME THE EMBASSY FINDS A WAY IN WHICH WE CAN MEET THAT COMMITMENT THE DEPARTMENT FINDS A NEW REASON WHY WE CAN'T. THE POINT IS THE COMMITMENT IS THERE. THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GOT AUTHORIZATION TO USE NON-PL-480 RUPEES LAST YEAR; ON WHAT BASIS DO WE ASSUME THEY WILL NOT GET IT THIS YEAR? FBO HAS HAD OVER A YEAR TO PREPARE THE WAY TO GET SIMILAR AUTHORIZATION. WE DON'T HAVE A QUESTION HERE OF WHICH COMES FIRST, FBO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OR ST. JOHNS. THE FORMER CAN GET NON-PL-480 RUPEES, THE LATTER CANNOT, AND WE MUST PROCEED WITH ALL THREE. THE LONGER WE WAIT WITH ST. JOHNS THE LESS OUR MONEY WILL BUY AND THE MORE WE'LL GET INTO PROBLEMS OF CONSTRUCTION STOPPAGE AND ATTENDANT RECRIMINATIONS.

2. IN REGARD TO THE RS. 3 MILLION, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A DEFENSIBLE AGREEMENT FOR THIS AMOUNT. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW AWAKWARD IT WOULD BE TO NEGOTIATE A BASIC AGREEMENT FOR RUS. 3 MILLION AND THEN A SUPPLEMENTARY ONE FOR RS. 23 MILLION. ST. JOHNS COULD DO NOTHING WITH RS. 3 MILLION AS THIS

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WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE IT TO LET CONTRACTS, ETC. ANY-

WAY, WE CAN STILL SEE NO GOOD REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT HAVE RS.
13 MILLION NOW AND THE BALANCE IN JUNE.

3. ALREADY WE ARE BEGINNING TO RUN INTO FISCAL YEAR PROBLEMS.
WE WILL NEED TIME TO GET OMB AUTHORITY AND THIRTY DAYS TO GO
THROUGH THE MONDALE-POAGE PROCEDURE. TO SLIDE OVER INTO THE NEW
FISCAL YEAR COULD INVITE TREASURY TO INSIST ON A YEAR-LONG CON-
VERSION SET-ASIDE.

4. PLEASE DON'T COMPROMISE ON THIS.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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